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23 May 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Proposed Executive Order "Directing the Cooperation of Government Agencies in the Coordination of Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States."

By letter, dated 18 February 1946, Mr. McGrath, the Acting Attorney General, forwarded to the President through the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, a proposed Executive Order, prepared in his department, entitled "Directing the Cooperation of Government Agencies in the Coordination of Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States." By a memorandum, dated 27 February 1946, Mr. Bailey, Assistant Director, Legislative Reference of the Executive Office of the President, Bureau of the Budget, forwarded a copy of the proposed Executive Order to Admiral Souers requesting the views of the National Intelligence Authority with regard to it. By C.I.G. 2, dated 13 March 1946, the Director of Central Intelligence recommended that the N.I.A. authorize him to reply to the Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget to the effect that the N.I.A. had considered the proposed Executive Order and that in carrying out the President's Directive of 22 January the N.I.A. had so far encountered no impediment which would constitute a basis for recommending that the Directive should be superseded by an Executive Order; however, the N.I.A. offered no objection to the issuance of such an Executive Order, provided that the effect would be merely to confirm and formalize the status of the N.I.A. as a cooperative interdepartmental activity, rather than a new or independent agency requiring legislation for its existence. C.I.G. 2 was approved by informal action of the N.I.A., subject to minor amendments, on 29 March, and the resulting Directive to the Director of Central Intelligence was issued as N.I.A. Directive No. 3. A letter to the Bureau of the Budget was dispatched on 29 March.

The attached letter from Mr. Almond, Acting Assistant Director of Legislative Reference, Executive Office of the President, Bureau of the Budget, to the Attorney General, apparently means that Mr. McGrath, Acting Attorney General, requested that no further action be taken with respect to his proposal of 18 February and his initial letter be returned to him. The proposed Executive Order was returned as requested.

W.A.P.

CG: Chief, CPS

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